

***Cousinia zagrica* (Asteraceae) a new species from west of Iran**

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Abstract:

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Cousinia zagrica is described and illustrated. This new species occurs in a small area in west of Iran. *Cousinia zagrica* is placed in sect. *Cynaroideae* Bunge by its appendiculate bracts and decurrent leaves.

Zusammenfassung:

Cousinia zagrica wird beschrieben und illustriert. Die neue Art kommt in einem kleinen Areal im Westen Irans vor. Sie ist aufgrund der appendikulaten Hüllblätter und der herablaufenden Blätter in die Sektion *Cynaroideae* Bunge zu stellen.

Cousinia zagrica Attar, Ghahreman & Assadi, spec. nov.

Typus: Iran, Azarbaijan: West of Urmieh, Mavana, Hakki Mountains, West of the Darreh Rash village, 2100–2700 m, 31.7.1995, Mozaffarian 74871 (Iran, holotype, TARI).

Cousinia zagrica differt a *Cousinia eriocephala* Boiss. & Hausskn. floribus ± 140 (nec 80–130), corollis ± 24 mm longis (nec 25–30 mm), receptaculi setis scabris (nec laevis), phyllis applanatis et reflexis (nec carinatis et erectis); differt a *Cousinia vanensis* Hub.- Mor. floribus ± 140 (nec 65–90), foliis plus quam 8 segmentis (nec usque 8).

Planta perennis monocarpica, usque ad 60 cm alta. Caulis a medio ramosus, cano-arachnoido-tomentosus, distincte striatus, araneosus. Folia utrinque canescenti-araneosa, dentato-spinosa; spinis lateralibus et terminalibus usque ad 5 mm longis; folia basalia oblongo-lanceolata, pinnatifida-pinnatisecta; segmentis utrinque 8, acutis, triangularibus, inferioribus brevibus; folia caulina oblongo-lanceolata, indivisa, interrupte decurrentia; folia summa reducta. Capitula singula, terminalia, spinis inclusis 5 cm diametro, absque spinis 2,5 cm; involucrum ovatum, 2 cm longum, araneoso-tomentosum, superne constrictum, phylla ± 100, plurumque inferiora purpurea; phylla exteriora 4 mm longa; appendix 15–17 mm longa, 7 mm lata, ovata, integra, acuminata, basi rotundata, plana, reflexa; phylla intermedia 10 mm longa; appendix triangularis, acuminata, integra, plana, reflexa vel patula; phylla interiora 10 × 3 mm, rhombica acuta, erecta; phylla intima 30 mm longa, acuta, erecta, paulo prominentia. Receptaculi setae scabrae. Flora ± 140; corolla rosea, ± 24 mm longa, limbo tubum circiter aequante; laciniis 5–7 mm longis; filamenta 5 mm longa; antherarum tubus roseus, glaber. Achaenia matura non visa.

Monocarpic perennial plant, up to 60 cm high, branched from the middle, totally tomentose-arachnoid-canescens. Stems distinctly striate, densely persistent arachnoid. Leaves tomentose-arachnoid on both surfaces, dentate and spiny at the margin; terminal and lateral spines up to 5 mm long; basal leaves oblong-lanceolate, pinnatifid-pinnatisect; segments more than 8 on each side, acute, triangular, lower segments smaller; stem leaves oblong-lanceolate, undivided, interrupted decurrent; upper leaves small. Capitulum including spines 5 cm in diam., without spines 2.5 cm; involucre ovate, 2 cm long, densely tomentose-arachnoid, constricted above, \pm 100 bracteate; bracts often purplish in lower half; outer bracts 4 mm long; appendages 15–17 mm long, 7 mm broad, ovate, almost entire at the margin, acuminate, almost rounded at the base, flat, reflexed; median bracts 10 mm long; appendages 15 mm long, 5 mm broad, triangular, acuminate, entire at the margin, flat, reflexed or sometimes spreading; inner bracts 10 mm long, 3 mm broad, rhombic, acute, erect; innermost bracts 30 mm long, acute, erect, slightly exserted. Receptacle bristles up to 20 mm long, scabrous. Flowers \pm 140; corolla pink, \pm 24 mm long, limb equalling the tube; lobes 5–7 mm long; filaments 5 mm long; anther tube glabrous, pink. Mature achene unknown.

Geographic distribution: *Cousinia zagrica* is endemic to west of Iran which grows on the slope of dry stony mountains.

Flowers and fruiting time: July–August.

Taxonomic remark:

Cousinia zagrica is distinguished from other species by its habit and flat reflexed bracts. This species is allied to *Cousinia eriocephala* Boiss. & Hausskn. (RECHINGER 1972, 1979) from west of Iran and *C. vanensis* Hub.-Mor. (HUBER-MORATH 1975) from east of Anatoli, it differs from *C. eriocephala* in length of corolla, receptacle bristles, number of flowers, its cordate base of upper leaves; it also differs from *C. vanensis* in number of flowers and segments of the basal leaves.

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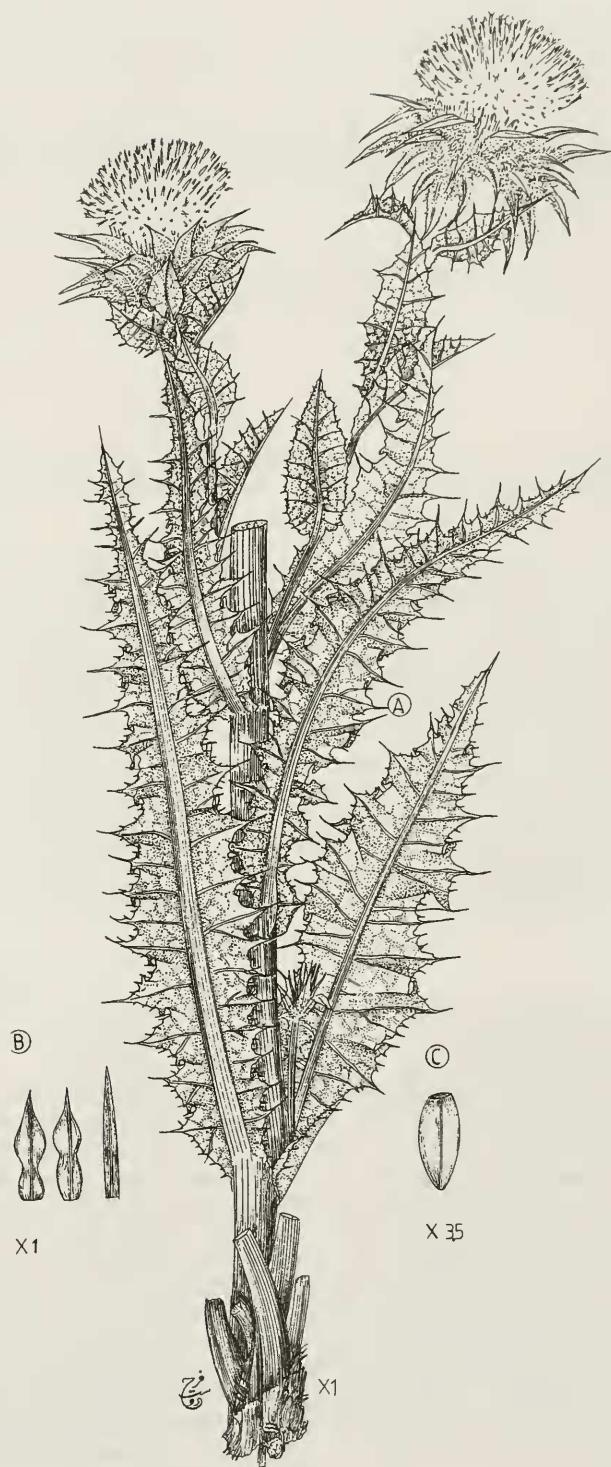


Abb. 1: *Cousinia zagrica*. A. Habit, B. Bracts, C. Achene. Scale bar = 5 cm.